

Given from coal water split.

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Curios and Relics

Desk Supplies

Gavel from Rail Split by Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



CHIP OFF THE OLD RAIL—Not the pretty University of Kentucky co-ed, Angela Meisch Blair of Delta Delta Delta sorority, but the chapter's gavel she holds in the picture above has special significance on Lincoln's birthday today. The gavel head reputedly was turned from a rail which young Abe split for a fence on his parent's farm in Coles county, Illinois, while the handle was hewn from a walnut tree that grew on the farm.

THE LEXINGTON HERALD

Wednesday Morning, February 12, 1947

GAVEL FOR THE CONVENTION.

Made From a Log Which Abraham Lincoln
Hewed at New Salem, Ill.

Lincoln's memory will not be allowed to wane at the Republican national convention. Every time the chairman raps for order he will bring down on his table a gavel made from a log hewn by the immortal statesman-president.

When Lincoln lived at New Salem in 1832 he built a log cabin for a home. He was clerking in a village store at the time, but worked out of hours to raise the house. It is from one of the logs in this house the gavel is being made.

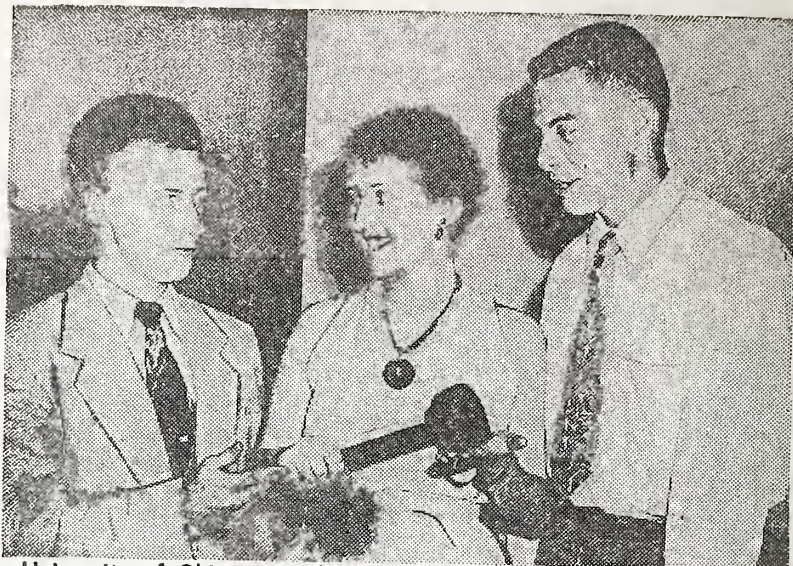
W. H. Bartels of Carthage, whose fame as a maker of gavels has been augmented by his workmanship on the little mallet which rapped the World's fair open, is now employed at the important task of making this Lincoln gavel. One end of it will be mounted with silver and engraved as follows:

"Made by W. H. Bartels, Carthage, Ill., from a log of the cabin built by Abraham Lincoln, 1832, at New Salem, Ill."

The inscription on the gold mounted end of the mallet will read:

"National Republican convention held at St. Louis, June 16, 1896, nominating
— for President."

Senator O. F. Berry of Carthage will present the gavel to the convention.



University of Chicago students (l. to r.) Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Steele and George D. Lindberg examine gavel which will be used during GOP National Convention. (SUN-TIMES Photo)

CHICAGO BRIEFS

'Lincoln Gavel' To Start Republican Convention

The Republicans will dip back into history when they pound the gavel signaling the opening of their national convention here Monday.

A gavel made from a rail split by Abraham Lincoln will be used by Walter S. Hallanan, temporary chairman of the convention, to call the initial session to order. The gavel, a prized item in the Lincoln collection of the University of Chicago, is one of two acquired by the university in 1932.

Originally, the gavel was acquired by the Rev. William E. Barton, of Oak Park, from Clarence T. Hall, great-grandson of Matilda Johnston Hall, a stepsister of Lincoln.

Front Views & Profiles

By LUCY KEY MILLER

American Firsts

The historic gavel made from a rail split by Abraham Lincoln and used to call sessions of the Republican convention to order belongs to the University of Chicago. It will be returned there, at the close of the convention, to take its place in a special exhibit of political mementos on view in Harper library. Among the items displayed there are some 1860 flags, a campaign button with an unbearded picture of Lincoln, broadsides, early convention songbooks, and Currier and Ives prints.

University lexicographers will enter politics after the November election, when they begin sorting out new expressions for inclusion in "A Dictionary of Americanisms." According to the editor, Mitford M. Mathews, the word "president" is the oldest political Americanism in the dictionary. It was first used by John Smith in 1608. The 1952 Presidential campaign will be credited, in the book, with the initial use, with political connotations, of the phrases "grass roots" and "whistle stop."

Mystery Man

Between chores at Taft headquarters this week, Mrs. Hamil-

ton Vose and Mrs. Robert McKenna compared notes on an apparition both had seen in different parts of Chicago—one uptown, the other down—within the last few days. Neither has found a clew to the identity of the mysterious individual who, in broad daylight, walks a pair of small white poodles while he himself is impeccably clad in a full dress suit complete with tails and a tall silk hat. His tall, thin figure and dark complexion add a striking note to his appearance.

A Difficult Assignment

The Chicago Natural History museum has had few such difficult assignments as the one recorded in their current bulletin. A research worker for a television producer telephoned to say:

"We have a spot on our program we would like to devote to museum material. We would like to have a speaker tell, and demonstrate with graphic material, the story of the origin and development of man."

"That would cover a span of one to three billion years," answered the museum official. "How much time would we be allotted on the program?"

"Two minutes," was the reply.

Chicago Tribune



